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Amendment dated 9 January 2006  
Reply to Office Action of 8 September 2005

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Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Cancelled)
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently Amended) ~~A container according to claim 3~~ A container for housing optical discs, the container comprising:
  - a base;
  - a lid coupled to the base by a pivot joint for releasably housing an optical disc between the base and the lid, the pivot joint permitting pivotal motion of the lid relative to the base about a pivot axis that is substantially orthogonal to a plane of the disc housed between the base and the lid; and
  - a hook having an open end for removably coupling the container to a rod;
  - wherein the base comprises a generally flattened base portion disposed to protect a first planar surface of the disc housed between the base and the lid and the lid comprises a generally flattened lid portion disposed to protect a second, opposing planar surface of the optical disc housed between the base and the lid;
  - wherein the hook is formed on a perimeter of both the base and the lid; and
  - wherein the hook comprises a finger that extends at least partially around the pivot axis.

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5. (Original) A container according to claim 4 wherein an edge of the finger defines at least a portion of an inwardly extending channel which leads towards the pivot joint and terminates in a bore located within the pivot joint.
6. (Original) A container according to claim 5 wherein the bore comprises an edge that is semi-circular in shape.
7. (Original) A container according to claim 5 wherein a width of the bore is greater than a width of the channel immediately outside of the bore.
8. (Currently Amended) ~~A container according to claim 2~~ A container for housing optical discs, the container comprising:
  - a base;
  - a lid coupled to the base by a pivot joint for releasably housing an optical disc between the base and the lid, the pivot joint permitting pivotal motion of the lid relative to the base about a pivot axis that is substantially orthogonal to a plane of the disc housed between the base and the lid; and
  - a hook having an open end for removably coupling the container to a rod;

wherein the base comprises a generally flattened base portion disposed to protect a first planar surface of the disc housed between the base and the lid and the lid comprises a generally flattened lid portion disposed to protect a second, opposing planar surface of the optical disc housed between the base and the lid;

wherein the hook is formed by a perimeter edge of at least one of the base and the lid; and

wherein the hook comprises a finger that extends at least partially around the pivot axis.

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9. (Original) A container according to claim 8 wherein an edge of the finger defines at least a portion of an inwardly extending channel which leads towards the pivot joint and terminates in a bore in the center of the pivot joint.
10. (Original) A container according to claim 9 wherein the bore comprises an edge that is semi-circular in shape.
11. (Original) A container according to claim 9 wherein a width of the bore is greater than a width of the channel immediately outside of the bore.

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A container according to claim 1~~ A container for housing optical discs, the container comprising:

a base;

a lid coupled to the base by a pivot joint for releasably housing an optical disc between the base and the lid, the pivot joint permitting pivotal motion of the lid relative to the base about a pivot axis that is substantially orthogonal to a plane of the disc housed between the base and the lid; and

a hook having an open end for removably coupling the container to a rod;

wherein the base comprises a generally flattened base portion disposed to protect a first planar surface of the disc housed between the base and the lid and the lid comprises a generally flattened lid portion disposed to protect a second, opposing planar surface of the optical disc housed between the base and the lid;

wherein the pivot joint comprises a semi-annular lid member which extends from the lid in a direction parallel to the pivot axis and a semi-annular base member that extends from the base in a direction parallel to the pivot axis, the semi-annular lid and base members slidably coupled to one another to enable pivotal

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movement of the lid relative to the base about the pivot axis.

13. (Original) A container according to claim 12 wherein the pivot joint comprises a bore through a center thereof, an edge of the bore formed by one of: the semi-annular base member and the semi-annular lid member.
14. (Original) A container according to claim 13 wherein the edge of the bore is semi-circular in shape.
15. (Original) A container according to claim 14 wherein the edge of the bore is formed by the semi-annular base member and wherein the base comprises a semi-annular groove which receives the semi-annular lid member.
16. (Original) A container according to claim 15 wherein the semi-annular groove comprises a notch on a side thereof, the semi-annular lid member comprises a flange on a side thereof, and the flange is received in the slot for preventing the lid from inadvertently coming apart from the base.
17. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim 14 ~~wherein the edge of the bore is formed by the semi-annular lid member~~ 8 wherein the pivot joint comprises a semi-annular lid member which extends from the lid in a direction parallel to the pivot axis and a semi-annular base member that extends from the base in a direction parallel to the pivot axis, the semi-annular lid and base members slidably coupled to one another to enable pivotal movement of the lid relative to the base about the pivot axis, wherein the pivot joint comprises a bore through a center thereof, an edge of the bore being semi-circular in shape and formed by the semi-annular lid member and wherein the lid comprises a semi-annular groove which receives the semi-annular base member.

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18. (Withdrawn) A container according to claim 17 wherein the semi-annular groove comprises a notch on a side thereof, the semi-annular base member comprises a flange on a side thereof, and the flange is received in the slot for preventing the lid from inadvertently coming apart from the base.
19. (Original) A container according to claim 14 wherein the edge of the bore comprises an opening that leads to a curved channel, the channel extending outwardly towards a perimeter edge of the container.
20. (Currently Amended) ~~A container according to claim 13~~ A container for housing optical discs, the container comprising:  
a base;  
a lid coupled to the base by a pivot joint for releasably housing an optical disc between the base and the lid, the pivot joint permitting pivotal motion of the lid relative to the base about a pivot axis that is substantially orthogonal to a plane of the disc housed between the base and the lid; and  
a hook having an open end for removably coupling the container to a rod;  
wherein the base comprises a generally flattened base portion disposed to protect a first planar surface of the disc housed between the base and the lid and the lid comprises a generally flattened lid portion disposed to protect a second, opposing planar surface of the optical disc housed between the base and the lid;  
wherein the pivot joint comprises a semi-annular lid member which extends from the lid in a direction parallel to the pivot axis and a semi-annular base member that extends from the base in a direction parallel to the pivot axis, the semi-annular lid and base members slidably coupled to one another to enable pivotal movement of the lid relative to the base about the pivot axis;

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wherein the pivot joint comprises a bore through a center thereof, an edge of the bore formed by one of: the semi-annular base member and the semi-annular lid member; and

wherein the hook comprises a finger that extends at least partially around the pivot axis.

21. (Original) A container according to claim 20 wherein an edge of the finger defines at least a portion of an inwardly extending channel which leads towards the pivot joint and terminates in the bore in the center of the pivot joint.
22. (Original) A container according to claim 21 wherein a width of the bore is greater than a width of the channel immediately outside of the bore.
23. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim ~~1~~ 8 comprising a latch mechanism for maintaining the lid in a closed pivotal orientation with respect to the base.
24. (Original) A container according to claim 23 wherein the latch mechanism comprises one or more protrusions on the lid which project into one or more corresponding indentations on the base when the lid is in the closed pivotal orientation.
25. (Withdrawn) A container according to claim 23 wherein the latch mechanism comprises one or more protrusions on the base which project into one or more corresponding indentations on the lid when the lid is in the closed pivotal.
26. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim ~~13~~ 8 comprising a pivot joint locking mechanism for preventing pivotal movement of the lid with respect to the base.

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27. (Withdrawn) A container according to claim 26, wherein the pivot joint locking mechanism comprises a shaft, which is slideable to a locking position where a portion of the shaft projects into the pivot joint to prevent pivotal movement of the lid with respect to the base.
28. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim ~~±~~ 8 wherein the perimeter of the base and the perimeter of the lid each comprise at least two straight edge portions and at least one arcuate edge portion.
29. (Previously Presented) A container according to claim 28 wherein the two straight edge portions are aligned substantially orthogonally to one another.
30. (Currently Amended) A container according to claim ~~±~~ 8 wherein the base comprises a retainer for releasably holding the optical disc against a surface thereof.
31. (Original) A container according to claim 30 wherein the retainer comprises a plurality of deformable members which project through a hole in the optical disc and which provide pressure against an edge of the hole to hold the optical disc against the surface of the base.
32. (Cancelled)
33. (Cancelled)
34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for storing or transporting one or more optical discs, the apparatus comprising a rod and one or more containers according to claim ~~±~~ 8, wherein the hook of the one or more optical disc containers is mountable to the rod.

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35. (Previously Presented) A container for housing substantially planar optical discs, the container comprising:
- a base having a base finger on its perimeter;
  - a lid pivotally coupled to the base by a pivot joint for housing an optical disc between the base and the lid, the lid having a lid finger on its perimeter;
  - wherein the base finger and lid finger form a hook having an open end for removeably coupling the container to a rod, wherein the pivot joint permits pivotal motion of the lid relative to the base about a pivot axis that is substantially orthogonal to a plane of the disc housed between the base and the lid and wherein the base comprises a generally flattened base portion disposed to protect a first planar surface of the disc housed between the base and the lid and the lid comprises a generally flattened lid portion disposed to protect a second, opposing planar surface of the optical disc housed between the base and the lid.
36. (Original) A container according to claim 35 wherein the base finger defines a curved base channel that extends inwardly toward an interior of the base and the lid finger defines a curved lid channel that extends inwardly toward an interior of the lid.
37. (Original) A container according to claim 36 wherein the inwardmost edge of the lid channel and the inwardmost edge of the base channel form a bore located within the pivot joint.
38. (Cancelled)